GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
RATES OF COMMISSION FOR PCOS
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the rates fixed for registration fee and bi-monthly rent to be charged from consumers for facilitating telephone facilities in Metro cities, urban and rural areas in the country;

(b) whether different rates of commission have been fixed for PCOs in urban and rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the facilities earmarked for rural areas are not being extended;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The rates fixed for registration fee and bi-monthly rent to be charged from customer in urban and rural areas by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are given in Annexure-I&II respectively.

(b) No, Sir, Uniform rate of commission has been offered for Public Call Offices (PCOs) working in Rural and Urban areas both. However as a special case, for Local Village Panchayat Telephones (VPT), commission has been given @ 50% by BSNL in order to enable the backward and rural areas to have access within local area only.

(c) The details of commission for PCOs by BSNL & MTNL are enclosed at Annexure-III & IV respectively.

(d) The telephone subscribers of basic telephones in areas classified as rural as per census report are charged rural tariff and this facility is already being extended to the subscribers of rural areas by BSNL.

(e) & (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.